

Possessive Pronouns

Teaching

Possessive pronouns are personal pronouns used to show ownership or relationship.

Possessive Pronouns

Singular	Plural
my, mine	our, ours
your, yours	your, yours
her, hers, his, its	their, theirs

The possessive pronouns *my*, *your*, *her*, *his*, *our*, and *their* come before nouns. The possessive pronouns *mine*, *ours*, *yours*, *his*, *hers*, and *theirs* can stand alone in a sentence.

My tennis serve is powerful but not very accurate.

My teammate's legs are stiff and sore from running, but mine feel fine.

Some possessive pronouns sound like contractions (*its/it's*, *your/you're*, *their/they're*). Don't confuse these pairs. Remember that possessive pronouns never use an apostrophe. Contractions always use an apostrophe.

Contraction You're never going to hit his fastball.

Possessive Your fastball is hard to hit, but his is impossible.

A. Identifying Possessive Pronouns

Underline all the possessive pronouns in the following sentences.

1. The athletes at our school should be proud of their performances this year.
2. Her backstroke is improving, and she really excels in the butterfly.
3. They had to win this game so their team could go to the state championships.
4. Cross-country was our school's best athletic event.
5. When he hit the golf ball, he could see its flight was heading straight to the hole.
6. They had worked hard to earn the trophy, and now the glory was theirs.

B. Using Possessive Pronouns

Underline the correct pronoun to complete each sentence.

1. (Their, they're) dedication to the game could be seen in how well they played.
2. Even the judges were amazed at (her, hers) performance in the gymnastics competition.
3. Public speaking was not (his, its) best talent, but he did well on the debate team.
4. John's track meet last year was a disaster. (Your, Yours) turned out much better.
5. The basketball team had a tough year, but (its, it's) hopes are high for next year.
6. Those cheerleaders are gymnasts too. (Your, You're) cheerleaders could learn some routines from them.
7. When (they're, their) scores were posted, the athletes cheered.

**Lesson
4****Possessive Pronouns****More Practice****A. Using Possessive Pronouns**

In each sentence, underline the pronoun that completes each sentence correctly.

- Someone should have tried to block (her, its) shot. It was the game winner!
- Lewis found the chess meet to be tougher than (his, its) football game.
- It was (my, mine) proudest moment when I won the diving competition.
- (Your, You're) football team should score a lot of points this year.
- You can give up or try harder. It's (you're, your) choice.
- The runners dropped the baton in the 800-meter relay. (It's, Its) handle was too slippery.
- When we fumbled on the five-yard line, we suddenly knew that victory was (their, theirs).
- The news article said that it was (her, hers) determination that made Kelly into a world-class skier.
- Has the principal seen the students' petition? They want (they're, their) school to have a speed skating team.
- No one who watched Kevin play golf could believe (his, its) luck in sinking that 40-foot putt.
- Paula had worked hard, and everyone expected (her, hers) project to win first prize at the science fair.

B. Choosing Possessive Pronouns

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate possessive pronouns. Vary the pronouns you use.

- The theater gave free passes to _____ staff.
- _____ idea for the experiment might work.
- They are picking up _____ uniforms now.
- Have you made up _____ mind about going?
- Are these your gym shoes or _____?
- His voice carries farther than _____.
- After the game, the twins asked us over to _____ house.

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Application

A. Proofreading

Proofread the following story to make sure that possessive pronouns have been used in the right places. When you find a pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Then insert this proofreading symbol ↗ and write the correct pronoun above it.

This was probably the biggest weekend in they're school's history.

Jennifer knew it was the biggest weekend of her life. The baseball team was playing it's semifinal games on Saturday. If they won, their players would go to the regional playoffs. "My brother's pitching, and your is catching," she said to her friend Aya on the phone. "I wish we could be there." Jennifer and Aya had their own competition to attend. They were both on the varsity track team, and its final meet of the season was also on Saturday. "I really hope we win," said Aya. "I know you'll do your best, and I'll do my." Another big event would happen on Sunday. "I can't believe you're sister is performing in the national finals for piano," Jennifer remarked to Aya. "What a weekend!"

B. Using Possessive Pronouns in Writing

Write a letter to an athlete you admire. Tell him or her the reasons for your admiration by pointing out what you like best about how he or she plays or lives life. Use at least five possessive pronouns in your paragraph.

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